

**SHB 5489 Amendment**

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1136 Sec. 17. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1137 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

1138 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or  
1139 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from  
1140 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not  
1141 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than  
1142 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,  
1143 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,  
1144 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer  
1145 than one in physical education.

1147 (b) **For classes graduating from 2004 to 2017,**  
1148 inclusive, no local or regional board of education shall permit any  
1149 student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any  
1150 student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty  
1151 credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than  
1152 three in mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including  
1153 at least a one-half credit course on civics and American government,  
1154 not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or  
1155 vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.

1156 (c) **Commencing with classes graduating in 2018,** and for each  
1157 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education  
1158 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a  
1159 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed (1) a  
1160 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (A) Nine  
1161 credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (i) four credits in  
1162 English, including composition; (ii) three credits in social studies,  
1163 including at least one credit in American history and at least one-half  
1164 credit in civics and American government; (iii) one credit in fine arts;  
1165 and (iv) one credit in a humanities elective; (B) eight credits in science,  
1166 technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer than (i)  
1167 four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry and algebra  
1168 II or probability and statistics; (ii) three credits in science, including at  
1169 least one credit in life science and at least one credit in physical science;  
1170 and (iii) one credit in a science, technology, engineering and  
1171 mathematics elective; (C) three and one-half credits in career and life  
1172 skills, including not fewer than (i) one credit in physical education; (ii)  
1173 one-half credit in health and safety education, as described in section  
1174 10-16b; and (iii) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as  
1175 career and technical education, English as a second language,  
1176 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition  
1177 and physical activity; (D) two credits in world languages, subject to the

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1178 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (E) a one credit senior  
1179 demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board  
1180 of Education; and (2) end of the school year examinations for the  
1181 following courses: (A) Algebra I, (B) geometry, (C) biology, (D)  
1182 American history, and (E) grade ten English.

1183 (d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each  
1184 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education  
1185 shall provide adequate student support and remedial services for  
1186 students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial  
1187 services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of  
1188 the high school graduation requirements or end of the school year  
1189 examinations described in subsection (c) of this section, if such student  
1190 is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or  
1191 exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but  
1192 not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer  
1193 school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a  
1194 class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher  
1195 education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of  
1196 subsection (g) of this section; (3) allowing students who received a  
1197 failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an  
1198 end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and  
1199 (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state  
1200 that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to  
1201 demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through  
1202 success on such alternate assessment.

1203 [(c)] (e) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician  
1204 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical  
1205 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical  
1206 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical  
1207 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may  
1208 be fulfilled by an elective.

1209 [(d)] (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of  
1210 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of  
1211 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject  
1212 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional  
1213 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period  
1214 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
1215 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to  
1216 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
1217 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when  
1218 the planning and placement team for such student determines the  
1219 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a

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1220 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute  
1221 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or  
1222 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an  
1223 institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or  
1224 regionally accredited; or (2) through on-line coursework that is in  
1225 accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection (g) of this  
1226 section.

1227 [(e)] (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve,  
1228 inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local  
1229 or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward  
1230 meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful  
1231 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of  
1232 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course  
1233 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the  
1234 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of  
1235 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through  
1236 on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit  
1237 provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an  
1238 examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the  
1239 Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3)  
1240 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon  
1241 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency  
1242 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,  
1243 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours  
1244 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject  
1245 matter; [or] (4) toward meeting the high school graduation  
1246 requirement upon the successful completion of coursework at an  
1247 institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or  
1248 regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its  
1249 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for  
1250 purposes of this section; (5) toward meeting the high school  
1251 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-line  
1252 coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has  
1253 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting  
1254 of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a  
1255 minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is  
1256 equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom  
1257 setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum  
1258 guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where  
1259 appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive  
1260 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required  
1261 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on  
1262 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program

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1263 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and  
1264 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are  
1265 certified in the state or another state and have received training on  
1266 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of  
1267 higher education that are accredited by the Department of Higher  
1268 Education or regionally accredited; or (6) toward meeting the high  
1269 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of the  
1270 board examination series pursuant to section 18 of this act.

1271 [(f)] (h) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half  
1272 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall  
1273 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,  
1274 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school  
1275 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of  
1276 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not  
1277 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom  
1278 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not  
1279 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall  
1280 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the  
1281 requirements of this section.

1282 [(g)] (i) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma  
1283 to a veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who left high  
1284 school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the  
1285 United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such  
1286 service.

1287 (j) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school  
1288 year thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall collect  
1289 information for each student enrolled in a public school, beginning in  
1290 grade six, that records students' career and academic choices in grades  
1291 six to twelve, inclusive.

1292 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The Department of  
1293 Education may establish a board examination series pilot program to  
1294 allow local and regional boards of education to permit students in  
1295 grades nine to twelve, inclusive, to substitute achievement of a passing  
1296 score on a series of examinations approved by the State Board of  
1297 Education for the high school graduation requirements pursuant to  
1298 section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The  
1299 State Board of Education shall issue a board examination certificate to  
1300 any student who has successfully completed such program. Such  
1301 board examination certificate shall be considered in the same manner  
1302 as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a

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1303 student for enrollment at a public institution of higher education in  
1304 this state.

1305 (b) Notwithstanding the high school graduation requirements  
1306 pursuant to section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this  
1307 act, for the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school year  
1308 thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall permit a student  
1309 to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the  
1310 board examination series program described in subsection (a) of this  
1311 section.

1312 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30,  
1313 2013, to June 30, 2018, inclusive, the Department of Education shall,  
1314 within available appropriations, provide grants to local and regional  
1315 school districts to begin implementation of the provisions of  
1316 subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as  
1317 amended by this act.

1318 (b) On or before November 1, 2012, and biennially thereafter, each  
1319 local or regional board of education seeking grant assistance from the  
1320 department pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall report to the  
1321 department on the status of the school district's implementation of the  
1322 provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the general  
1323 statutes, as amended by this act, and an explanation for the reasons  
1324 why funds are necessary for the next biennium to implement the  
1325 provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a.